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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

8 AUG 1983

REPLY TO ATTN OF IN

SUBJECT Space Station Report (Draft) (U) (Your Memo, 4 Aug 1983)

TO Director, Intelligence Community Staff

1. (U) Subject report has been reviewed and several major concerns need to be expressed to the DDCI in preparation for the 10 Aug 1983 meeting.

a. (S) First, the entire Space Community has conducted numerous studies attempting to define requirements for a permanently manned space station. It has been concluded that there are no currently identifiable national security requirements which could be uniquely satisfied or significantly enhanced by a permanently manned space station. The NASA claims that a space station is required to meet commercial needs and to maintain civil space leadership are unsubstantiated by the report.

b. (S) Second, the approximately 8 billion dollar cost of a space station is not justified and represents only the tip of the iceberg in the cost of operating/using a manned space station. No data have been presented to assess the validity of the NASA cost estimates, and any cost estimate is suspect until the requirements for the station are better defined. The 8 billion dollar figure buys only one space station on orbit. All of the activities associated with a space station, that could be of national value, are uncosted and expensive.

c. (S) Third, NASA focus on a space station could detract from support to the National Space Transportation System. NASA's first priority should focus on making the space shuttle fully operational and cost-effective in providing routine access to space. This priority should not be adversely impacted by a major NASA new start such as a space station.

2. (S) Recommend the DDCI take a strong position against any commitment to a manned space station. The United States should take an evolutionary approach using the space shuttle to assess the potential utility of manned space activities. Using the shuttle as a manned laboratory can provide much of the needed information on man's utility in space while providing very visible U.S. leadership in space.

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